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**Scott Granoff, Jeffrey Stein,
Gary Brandeis, Daniel Jeck**

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Dylan Blatstien
Vice-Chancellor

Ethan Lebovits
Philanthropy Chair

Bryan Gurcan
Caterer

Nick Monsanto
Risk Manager

Joey Miller
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Alex Goldenberg
Public Relations Chair

James Hollingsworth
New Member Educator

Ari Shalit
THON Chair

Armando Ruah
Social Chair

Justin Nachman
Rush Chair

Jason Jungries
House Manager

Robbie Dickman
Auditor



Fall 2021

FROM THE PRESIDENT

New Board, New Initiatives, New Website

Dear Alumni,

I hope everyone has been enjoying the Fall so far. Winter is on its way, but we aren't there just yet. There has certainly been a lot of excitement with Penn State football, adding some extra energy to the campus and with the Beta Sig undergrads. Although we still live in a world where COVID is a factor, life has gradually returned to normal and allowed the undergrads to experience a more normalized Fall term thus far. There are 41 brothers living in the House with 39 out-of-House brothers that we have been working with on a number of initiatives.

We have been hard at work since mid-June and have had a successful semester so far. The undergrads have been busy on a number of projects. In September, Beta Sigma Beta hosted a 3-on-3 basketball tournament in support of THON. As we mentioned in our kick-off e-newsletter, the undergrads participated in a blood drive, organized by **Ethan Lebovits**. Most recently, and in the spirit of continually developing the House leadership, **Dylan Blatstein, Alec Borofsky, Jason Finberg** and **Cole Weinberg** attended the Emerging Leaders Retreat hosted by the Office of Fraternity and Sorority Life. Lastly, we've been working diligently on the revamped Beta Sigma Beta website: www.BetaSigmaBeta.com. There is a lot going on and more to come.

The current Board has really come together over the past few months. Just as importantly, we have formed a great relationship with the undergrads and developed an understanding of what it takes to be successful in today's climate. Beta Sig has a special place in all our hearts and we want to see its viability sustained long into the future. We all have our memories of the House and what it was like during our time there. Whether it be the dinners together during the week, catching up on the latest in the third floor showers, late nights, or my personal favorite, watching the Flyers beat the Penguins in the fifth OT my sophomore year



and staying up with guys at the House until the early morning hours.

As we look forward to the rest of the semester and beyond, we are asking our alumni for help on a few fronts. If you have the time and are willing to get involved (Board or otherwise) let us know. There are plenty of opportunities to help outside of being on the Board. Also, we are kicking off our annual campaign to raise money for a number of initiatives, including essential House projects. More on that to follow.

"Beta Sig has a special place in all our hearts and we want to see its viability sustained long into the future."

Lastly, we are in the process of planning some alumni events. We will reach out to everyone with details in the coming weeks. And over the school's winter break, we are working out details for a luncheon with alumni and the undergrads (date TBD).

On behalf of the Board and Advisors, we hope you find this newsletter informative, interesting and even useful to use as a method to reconnect. If you have any feedback or suggestions along the way please reach out.

Thank you,

Jonathan, #512

President, Beta Alumni Association

Here's 5 Things We'd Tell Another Chapter About Rebuilding

When Beta Sigma Beta started in 1913, it was the 13th fraternity on Penn State's campus. Over many years and changes in the growth of the fraternities throughout the country, the men of the Penn State Chapter, following an unsuccessful attempt to merge with Pi Lambda Phi, made the historic decision to become an independent fraternity, Beta Sigma Beta.

Since 1985, Beta Sigma Beta has continued to thrive in its leadership role as part of the Penn State fraternity system.

So when the chapter was suspended in 2019, longtime House Advisor **Scott Granoff '86** says it was time to go back to what made Beta Sig so impactful over the past 108 years.

"We've survived a lot of things over those years," he says. "What we're rebuilding here is a culture that cares about each other and takes care of what it has. A brotherhood with older and younger friends to help us through life. We needed to rebuild ... everything."

And they have. Over the past two years, actives, alumni, and the University, have worked together to write a new chapter in Beta Sig's history. Here's what they would tell another fraternity about rebuilding for success.

1) Draw a line in the sand. "When another fraternity advisor tells me that their chapter's house is being disrespected, I tell them that's a warning sign," Scott Granoff says. "Our house became a place to have fun, and the property wasn't respected."

"Our 91-year-old house was getting destroyed because hosting big parties became its reason for being," says **Jeff Stein '89**. "We drew a line in the sand, reevaluated our priorities, and focused our efforts on making the house a safe and healthy place where brothers want to live."

For Beta Sig, the 'line in the sand' meant restructuring both active and alumni roles, and most importantly, a focused return to the fraternity's five pillars—respect, humility, discretion, pride, and unity—while requiring accountability from the undergraduates. **Jack Sorkin '22**, the 2020 House President, says that wasn't an easy task, especially during COVID, but the hard work was worth it.

"We'd kind of lost our way, which put us at risk of losing our entire history," he says. "But in 2020, we put a lot of emphasis on

our five pillars, creating a brotherhood that is unified, respects the house, and the school's rules. There has been a really huge turn around in personal responsibility."

2) Work proactively with the University. Corey Cooperider and Kelci Jacoby from the Office of Fraternity and Sorority Life (OFSL) have been working with Beta Sig's undergraduates to make strides in conduct and compliance.

"Beta Sig provided us with some of the best times of our lives. It's our turn to step up and give back and allow a new group of undergrads to enjoy the same benefits."

"It's great to know right off the bat what's expected," 2021 House President **Ari Kasman '23** says. He and Jack, along with Scott, credit Corey and Kelci for putting in countless hours providing resources and support for a strong house. Ari says it's helped forge a better relationship with Penn State, and given him confidence as undergraduate and alumni events pick up again in 2021.

Scott Granoff says that OFSL has been a valuable resource to partner with.

3) Give back as an alumni. Former Alumni President and current Foundation President **Rob Eisman '79** says that alumni investment has been critical to the turnaround.

"Strong and responsible alumni supervision is critical," he says. "**Lee Epstein '81** and his team took the helm, committing time and energy to modify undergraduate behaviors and reestablish trust with university and borough officials. These exemplary efforts saved Beta Sig and paved the way for further growth."

He credits advisors **Scott Granoff**, **Jeff Stein '89** and **Gary Brandeis '88** for recruiting a diverse team of energetic brothers (headed by **Jon Spiegel '03**) who are committed to building on Beta Sig's leadership in academic, philanthropic, and responsible social spheres.

4) Invest in the next generation of brothers. **Scott Granoff** says that he and his fellow advisor are investing heavily in undergrad

leadership. "Every situation goes back to leadership," he says. "When a situation comes up, there's an opportunity for an undergrad leader to say 'that's not what we're about... let's look at this situation from the bigger picture.'"

He says the house membership is focused on academics and philanthropy, community service, and making a difference in the local community. It's an investment that's paying off: recent philanthropy events like a 3 on 3 basketball fundraiser have been a big success.

"Beta Sig provided us with some of the best times of our lives," **Rob Eisman** says. "It's our turn to step up and give back and allow a new group of undergrads to enjoy the same benefits."

5) Look at the benefits of being a Beta Sig. Sadly, **Scott Granoff** went to the funeral of **Marc Zuckerman '62** in August of 2021. Marc was a Beta Sig leader who arranged quarterly gatherings for members from the late 1940's through the 1960's.

"The rabbi remarked how important Penn State and particularly Beta Sig was to Marc, and he asked his brothers to stand to see how many fraternity members were there," Granoff remembers. "There had to be sixty of us who got up — not just brothers from Marc's class. And it reminded me what makes our thing so special. We're there for each other our entire lives. Being a Beta Sig goes so far beyond four years of college."

"Beta Sig has done so much for so many people," he says. "For me, I feel fortunate to have acquaintances who are 30 years older than me and 30 years younger, just because of how involved I've been. I want it to go on for everyone else. It doesn't have to be the same as it was when I was there — it just needs to continue with the proper purpose."

Ari Kasman and the rest of the undergrad leaders are working hard to make that happen. "This is how we want Beta Sig to be — actively making a positive impact. We're creating a new culture at Beta Sig, and I hope it lasts forever."

*This article has been edited for space.
Read the complete article at
www.betasigmabeta.com.*

UNDERGRAD UPDATES

Brothers Pack the House, Bring Back Bimmie Basketball, and Give Blood for THON

Brothers have moved back into the house and everyone has been loving it so far. This is the first time in a while the house has been this packed and it has given the brothers a chance to connect and get close with one another.

The house has a different feel to it now that there are so many more people living in it and it really feels like a brotherhood.

Bimmie Basketball Returns

After many requests, the Bimmie Basketball Association has returned for a second season giving the brothers a chance to compete against one another and to get some physical activity while the weather is still nice.

THON Fundraising Update

The brothers have been raising money for THON through donations and have participated in events like the school blood drive. They also recently played in the THON 3v3 basketball tournament.

Eleven brothers donated blood and they are looking to repeat as the fraternity with the most participants at the blood drive.

All of the blood donated was given to the Red Cross for people in need. There were at least 7-8 members of Beta Sigma Beta that were involved in this event. This event was coordinated by **Ethan Lebovits**.

Everyone felt happy knowing they were doing this for a good cause and helping other people. They were also very motivated for



Move-in day

this event because if they win the competition Beta Sig will have an extra donation towards THON under its name.

The undergrads can't wait to see what the rest of the semester brings!



Giving blood for a good cause



Brothers at the THON 3v3 Basketball Tournament

EXECUTIVE BOARD



The Executive Board hit the ground running this year and has done an amazing job of planning and participating in philanthropy events, cultivating an excellent relationship with the University, and getting back to being a Brotherhood with a full house.

(Pictured Left to Right) Top Row:

Dylan Blatstien - Vice-Chancellor, Ethan Lebovotis - Philanthropy Chair, Bryan Gurcan - Caterer, Ari Kasman - Chancellor, Nick Monsanto - Risk Manager, Joey Miller - Warden & Chancellor Emeritus, Alex Goldenberg - Public Relations Chair, James Hollingsworth - New Member Educator

Bottom Row:

Ari Shalit - THON Chair, Armando Ruah - Social Chair, Justin Nachman - Rush Chair, Jason Jungries - House Manager, Robbie Dickman - Auditor

RECONNECT WITH BETA SIG

Beta Sigma Beta's Newly Revamped Alumni Relations Program

Brothers:

We're very excited to announce the kickoff of our new Alumni Relations Program. As we begin this new journey with all of you, we can't wait to reconnect and get back to what made us Beta Sigma Beta men in the first place: friendship and brotherhood!

In the coming days, months, and years, we want to get together, tell stories, and reconnect with the best group of Graduates in the world. (And, of course, hit the links with you as soon as it's safe again.) Above everything else, we just want to help you stay in touch with your brothers.

Here's how we do that:

WEBSITE

Our new website is your revitalized, centralized source of information for all things Beta Sigma Beta. Alumni updates, news about upcoming events, and more will all live at betasigmabeta.com. Visit the new website today to log in and explore!

EVENTS

Whether it's happy hour with brothers in your



neighborhood, or just a nice and easy Zoom get-together from the comfort of your own living room. We just want to spend some quality time with you and enjoy the gift of brotherhood.

DIRECTORY

We all had that one roommate or brother in our pledge class we fell out of touch with over the years as life got in the way. Here's the good news: we can help you find him. Check out our new website's searchable directory to get back in touch.

SOCIAL MEDIA

Join the private Facebook group with over

500 members (Search [Beta Sigma Beta - Penn State](#)) and Instagram ([@betasigmabeta_psu](#)) to stay up-to-date on Beta Sig news.

ELETTERS

By now, you should be getting our revamped email communications where we let you know what's going on with the men at Beta Sig. Not getting our emails? No problem, Brother. Just send a note to our communications partner at alumninews@affinityconnection.com and let them know to add you to the Beta Sigma Beta PSU email list.

MAIL

You've got mail! Just as before, you should receive a *Beta Sigma Beta News* like this one in the mail every few months sharing the latest Beta Sigma Beta news (*but now with a facelift!*). Use the enclosed form to submit your Alumni News for publication in a future edition of the *Beta Sigma Beta News*!

We can't wait to reconnect with you!

ALUMNI UPDATES

Nathan Buckler '16 Shoots Hoops with Beta Sig Brothers in NYC

I am currently living in New York City, and have lived here for five years since I graduated in 2016.

Beta Sig remains a huge part of my network. More than half of my pledge class (fall 2012) lived in NYC at one point and we would regularly get together for dinners, PSU sports events, and concerts. I've had countless happenstance run-ins with other brothers while walking on the streets and it's always fun to take some time to catch up.

Basketball is a huge part of my life, and I regularly play with other Beta Sigs (younger and older). I've played in a league



with [Max Album '14](#) and I still play in a league with [Jesse Korn '11](#). A few years ago I played on a team with [Zach Altman](#), [Jason](#)

[Laderman](#), [Adam Jaffe](#), and [Jared Reiner '09](#) and we ended up winning a championship. It would be impossible to list everyone I've played with in NYC over the past years, but it probably stretches 10 pledge classes.

I currently work for an Asset Management firm as a risk and compliance associate and participate in the Beta Sig Mentorship program. In my spare time I enjoy learning guitar and going to concerts and sports events. Even though the Jet, Mets, and Knicks are perpetual losers, I still believe! Reach Nathan at nbucks21@gmail.com.